APPENDIX A
PENDING CLAIMS AS OF MAY 21, 2002
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28. (new) A method for screening for a modulator of MAP kinase signal transduction comprising:

(a) contacting a TAO polypeptide or variant thereof with an agent;

(b) incubating said contacted TAO with a MEK polypeptide; and

(c) determining the level of MEK activation,

wherein detecting a change in the level of MEK activation relative to a MEK incubated with a TAO polypeptide not contacted with said agent indicates that said agent is a modulator.

29. (new) A method for screening for a modulator of MAP kinase signal transduction comprising:

(a) contacting a cell expressing a TAO polypeptide or variant thereof and a MEK polypeptide with an agent; and

(b) determining the level of MEK activation,

wherein detecting a change in the level of MEK activation in said contacted cell relative to a cell not contacted with said agent indicates that said agent is a modulator.

30. (new) The method of claim 28 or 29, wherein said TAO is selected from the group consisting of TAO1, TAO2, and ceTAO.

31. (new) The method of claim 28 or 29, wherein said TAO is a TAO variant.

32. (new) The method of claim 31, wherein said TAO variant comprises the catalytic domain.

33. (new) The method of claim 32, wherein said TAO variant is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) amino acid residues 1-320 of TAO1;

(b) amino acid residues 1-416 of TAO1;

(c) amino acid residues 15-285 of TAO1;

(d) amino acid residues 1-320 of TAO2;

(e) amino acid residues 1-416 of TAO2;

(f) amino acid residues 15-285 of TAO2;

(g) amino acid residues 1-358 of ceTAO;

(h) amino acid residues of 1-454 ceTAO; and

(i) amino acid residues 47-323 of ceTAO.

34. (new) The method of claim 28 or 29, wherein said MEK is selected from the group consisting of MEK1, MEK2, MEK3, MEK4, and MEK6.

35. (new) The method of claim 28 or 29, wherein said modulator increases MAP kinase signal transduction.

36. (new) The method of claim 28 or 29, wherein said modulator decreases MAP kinase signal transduction.

37. (new) The method of claim 28 or 29, wherein said MEK activation is indicated by MEK phosphorylation.

38. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein a decrease in MEK phosphorylation indicates a decrease in MAP kinase signal transduction.

39. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein an increase in MEK phosphorylation indicates an increase in MAP kinase signal transduction.

40. (new) The method of claim 28 or 29, wherein said agent is an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof.

41. (new) The method of claim 40, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

42. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein said agent is an antisense polynucleotide or a ribozyme.

43. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein said MEK activation is indicated by p38 activity.

44. (new) The method of claim 43, wherein said p38 activity is indicated by p38 phosphorylation.

45. (new) The method of claim 44, wherein a decrease in p38 phosphorylation indicates a decrease in MAP kinase signal transduction.

46. (new) The method of claim 44, wherein an increase in p38 phosphorylation indicates an increase in MAP kinase signal transduction.

47. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein said MEK activation is indicated by expression of a reporter gene under the control of a MEK-dependent promoter.

48. (new) The method of claim 47, wherein said MEK-dependent promoter is ATF2.